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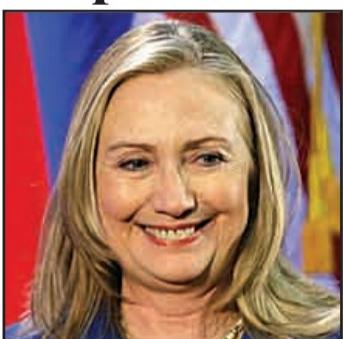
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Hillary Clinton seen leaving hospital building



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was seen leaving a hospital building yesterday three days after being admitted for a blood clot discovered close to her brain.

CNN showed images of the 65-year-old top US diplomat wearing dark glasses and walking unaided to a black van, accompanied by her smiling husband, former president Bill Clinton, her daughter Chelsea and top aides.

State Department officials refused AFP requests to confirm she had been discharged, and it was not known whether she planned to go home or would be returning to hospital for more treatment.

Earlier, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Clinton, who is being treated with blood thinners to break up the potentially dangerous clot, had been busy keeping in touch by telephone.

Clinton was admitted to the New York Presbyterian Hospital on Sunday after a routine scan revealed the clot in a vein in the space between her skull and her brain, and had been due to remain there for at least 48 hours.

Her doctors said in a statement on Monday that Clinton had not suffered a stroke or any neurological damage.

US Congress agrees last-minute fiscal-cliff deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Congress pulled back from the brink of "fiscal cliff" disaster and sparked a New Year stock rally with a last-minute deal averting tax hikes and massive spending cuts which threatened to unleash economic calamity.

Relief rippled out through European and Asian stock markets, with stocks in Spain and Italy surging by more than 3.0 percent, before the all-important opening on Wall Street.

The House of Representatives passed a deal between the White House and Republicans late Tuesday to raise taxes on the rich and put off automatic \$109 billion budget cuts for two months, lifting the clouds of immediate crisis.

But more hard haggling is due in two months' time over further specific budget measures.

The deal's fate had hung in the balance for hours as House conservatives sought to add spending reductions to a version passed by the Senate in the early hours of 2013 that would likely have killed the compromise.

In the end, the House voted 257 to 167 to pass the original bill with minority Democrats joining a smaller band of majority Republicans to pass the legislation after a fiercely contested and unusual session on New Year's Day.

President Barack Obama, who campaigned for re-election on a platform of building a more equitable economic system, declared the deal was a promise kept, despite falling short of earlier hopes for a grand deficit bargain.



"I will sign a law that raises taxes on the wealthiest two percent of Americans while preventing a middle class tax hike that could have sent the economy back into recession," Obama told reporters after the vote.

"The deficit needs to be reduced in way that's balanced. Everyone pays their fair share. Everyone does their part," Obama said, before heading to Air Force One to resume his interrupted annual vacation in his native Hawaii.

Leading up to the deal, po-

itical feuding which spanning the Christmas and New Year holidays reflected the near impossibility in forging compromise in Washington, where power is divided between a Democratic president and the Republican House.

It was also a signal that Obama, despite a thumping re-election win in November, may find it tough to achieve second term legislative goals that include immigration reform, clean energy legislation and gun control.

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Pointers to Ponder?



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What will 2013 hold for me?

Happy, Happy, Happy New Year! The yuletide season is over....Christmas again was great! We partied, enjoyed friends and family and ate fantastic food! However, for those of us who made it out of bed today, we are faced with the stark reality of the beginning of a new day....a new year! Today, we are back on the job and one major question is on our mind...what will this New Year hold for me?

This is a legitimate ques-



tion. In some ways, we cannot answer the question because we are unable to see into the future. Yet, in a way, we can. Because, if we do certain

things, there will be certain results. For example, if we determine to work hard, we will reap the benefits of hard work. If we determine to keep on keeping on even when the going gets rough, we will reach our goal. If we determine to stop listening to negative people and be focused on the positive, our lives will be much more meaningful and we will accomplish so much more.

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EDITORIAL

Scenarios to play out in 2013 in Aruba



Aruba bracing for 2013! Every continent of the world begins a new year with expectancy and some trepidation. This is because every New Year brings a measure of uncertainty with it. We are not able to see into the future, hence cannot know for certain what may befall us. What we do know are the scenarios that have already been staged back in 2012, which will be played out in 2013.

One scenario staged in 2012 is that Valero Refinery will take on a new modus operandi in 2013. This new operational format may mean less income for the island with all of the consequences of that for San Nicolas and for the overall economy of Aruba. Another scenario staged in 2012 is the growing local crime rate, which if not stemmed quickly may take on dangerous proportions for our different industries: commerce, education and tourism! Police and the Justice system must resolve to make this priority number one and to do whatever they must to stem the tide of crime on this otherwise peaceful island.

A third scenario staged in 2012, which actually dates back to several previous years, is the global economic situation which continues to be felt here. With all of the applauded efforts of the government to put more spending money into the hands of the people who most need it, there is still an economic gloom lingering. Everyone is complaining about the rising cost of everything. Fewer people are spending money on those things we once enjoyed, like eating out, going to the movies, etc. This is so we can have enough to spend on the essentials which have become so expensive! If we follow the global trend, 2013 does not provide us with any hope for improvement, so Aruba needs to brace itself for what is looming on the horizons economically in 2013! Prices may continue to rise especially in the face of what is taking place in the USA.

A fourth scenario staged in 2012 is Aruba's "open-sky" policy with respect to solar panels for homes and commerce.

Continued on page 3

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State of the Economy: A new publication

ORANJESTAD -- Since its inception in 1986, the CBA has complied with its duty to provide timely and reliable assessments of economic and financial developments, among others, through its Quarterly Bulletins. As an autonomous institution within Aruba's public sector, the CBA recognizes that it is important for policy makers and the public to have access to factual information as well as independent commentary on economic and financial developments.

To improve the accessibility of the presented information, the CBA has decided to impart new dynamism to its Quarterly publication, by substituting it with a new report titled The "State of the Economy" (SOE). To reach a broader readership, this modernized quarterly publication will present the relevant economic commentary in a more accessible narrative, aided by topical charts. The SOE will focus on interpreting the most recent developments in the context of observed trends.

To facilitate timely dissemination, the publication schedule will be based on a



CENTRALE BANK VAN ARUBA

fixed schedule, reviewing the most recently available data. The statistical tables formerly included in the Quarterly Bulletin will remain available through a separate release.

As is the case with all its publications, speeches and presentations, the CBA will communicate the release of SOE report to the local press and make it available on its website (www.cbaruba.org). With this modernization, the CBA hopes to reach a broader readership and promote public knowledge on financial and economic matters.

Brief overview of developments in the first nine months of 2012

During the first three quarters of 2012, the Aruban economy was impacted by the uncertainties related to the future of the oil refinery. An unclear situation at the

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What will 2013...

Continued from page 2

Let us begin today with the resolve to make a difference wherever we are! Let today be the first day of your new beginning as a purposeful person. Aruba needs people with vision, people with the determination to work hard and to make a contribution to the overall welfare of this island! You are a very worthy person or else you wouldn't be here!

You have 2013 to live out your supreme worth, don't waste this marvelous opportunity.

Aruba can be a better place in 2013 just because of you! Whatever you put into 2013 is what it will hold for you, besides those things over which you have no control.

Happy New Year, may God grant you a year of blessing, peace, happiness and good health!

*tonyggreen.morningnews@h
otmail.com.*

Scenarios to play out in 2013 in Aruba

Continued from page 2



ELMAR finally decided to allow everyone the opportunity to install solar panels at home; however, the price of this important commodity is still way above the budget of the average citizen, and in particular above the means of those who would benefit most from solar energy cost reduction.



In 2013, Aruba needs to act much more rapidly and prudently regarding the introduction of solar energy for the individual homeowner. Prices must be more reasonable to make solar energy accessible to all.

As we move into 2013, we do so with high expectations of a productive, safer, less expensive and happier Aruba! Our eyes remain focused on what is positive and we must rally together as one people to make only good things happen for Aruba, for us individually.

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"Nutcracker" by Kozlov Dance Int'l again delights audience

The husband and wife team of internationally renowned dancers Leonid and Adriana Kozlov again staged the holiday classic "The Nutcracker" at the Cas di Cultura over the final weekend of 2012. Bringing this beloved tradition to Aruba just a few years ago, the part-time island residents staged a sumptuous production featuring guest stars Albert Davydov, principal performer of the New Jersey Ballet and rising young star Sophia Greenbaum. Over 40 Aruban dancers of all ages performed beautifully in the chorus.

Audiences were thrilled by the elegant production featuring costumes and sets specially commissioned by renowned Russian designers for the ballet. Tchaikovsky's immortal music was matched with lively dance and stunning costumes. The beauty of dance was accompanied by the drama, comedy and fantasy of Leonid Kozlov's choreography.

The Kozlov's worked have contributed their time to work



Sophia Greenbaum in action

intensively with local young dancers at the Club di Movimiento in Bubali to excite interest and community involvement in the world of classic ballet. The appreciation for this rare treat was evident with a standing ovation from the audience.

A New Year's Gala was performed at the Occidental

Grand Resort in Palm Beach on Tuesday, January 1. Albert Davydov was featured in a show-stopping pas de deux with Sofia Greenbaum titled "Diana Acteon." Mr. Davydov also treated the audience with an exciting Russian Gopak filled with high flying leaps and intricate jumps. The New Year program featured classic



Guest star Albert Davydov and Clara

ballet, folkloric dance, tango and a new work by Leonid Kozlov titled "Impulse," an intricate jazz on pointe number.

The Kozlovs aspire to stimulate the Aruban community to appreciate these art forms,

while establishing the popular holiday ballet as a standing tradition on Aruba, to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Rosalie Klein

New complaint against Princess Máxima's father for Argentine junta role

THE HAGUE -- A new complaint against the father of Princess Máxima has been made by the families of four people who disappeared during the Argentine junta era, according to Argentine media.

Jorge Zorreguieta was agriculture minister during the dictatorship of Jorge Videla and has always denied having any role in the disappearances.

The four disappeared during the period Zorreguieta headed the farming institute INTA where many workers were sacked because they sup-

ported the opposition. Several of them disappeared and their survivors have now decided to force an investigation.

Some 12,000 people disappeared during the junta period between 1976 and 1981.

Zorreguieta's role in the junta led to him being banned from attending Máxima's wedding to Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander. Since then, he and his wife have made several private visits to the Netherlands and he attended the christenings of all three granddaughters.

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Seven arrested in Curacao multimillion dollar gold heist

WILLEMSTAD — Curacao police have arrested seven suspects in connection with the November 30 heist of 70 gold bars worth an estimated US\$11.5 million from a vessel reportedly registered in Guyana.

Media reports at the time of the theft said that 470 pounds of raw gold divided into 70 bars were hauled off the MV Summer Bliss by six men wearing hoods, masks and jackets emblazoned with the English word "police".

The masked men are said to have assaulted the ship's captain and made off with the loot shortly after the boat docked in the Dutch Caribbean island.

Last Friday, police spokesman Reginald Huggins said that one of the suspects is from Bonaire, three are from Venezuela and the remainder from Curacao. One of the men was later released while the others were still being interrogated.

One of the men arrested is the owner of a local jewellery store, while at least two other suspects were said to have been nabbed at the jeweller's home. During the investigation the police have confiscated articles that are very important for the case.

In the preliminary part of the investigation the customs also participated actively. Furthermore because this investigation has some international aspect to it, the Police Corps has communication with the authorities from these countries.

The investigation in this case continues.

The country of origin of the massive haul is still not clear.

Venezuela opposition want 'the truth' about Chavez health

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela's main opposition movement yesterday called on the government to tell "the truth" about President Hugo Chavez's health amid growing uncertainty over his condition three weeks after undergoing cancer surgery in Cuba.

"It is essential that the government act in a manner that gives confidence. It is essential that it tell the truth," said Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, the head of MUD, an opposition umbrella group.

Aveledo accused the go-

vernment of "outlandish irresponsibility" in trying to make it appear that Chavez was exercising his duties as president as he underwent a difficult recovery in Cuba.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro said in a television interview from Havana Tuesday that Chavez was conscious and fully aware "of how complex the postoperative condition is."

But Maduro provided few specifics about the president's health even as he accused the Venezuelan right of delibe-

rately spreading what he said were sick lies and rumors about Chavez's condition.

Maduro, who said he had spoken twice with Chavez during a three day visit to Havana, returned to Caracas yesterday to face the growing doubts and political pressures in a nation that has the world's largest proven oil reserves.

At the top of his to do list will be to sort out what happens if Chavez, 58, is unable to be sworn in to a new six year term on January 10 following his re-election in Oc-

tober.

The Venezuelan constitution calls for new elections within 30 days if the president-elect is unable to take the oath of office.

The constitution demands that new elections be called within 30 days if Chavez, who has dominated Venezuelan political life since taking power in 1999, dies or is declared incapacitated before his inauguration.

But the key question is whether Chavismo, Chavez's left-wing movement marked

by patronage and generous government handouts to the poor, can survive without him.

If new elections are held, opposition leader Henrique Capriles, who gave the commandante a good run for his money in the October election, might prevail and seek to begin a new era.

For now, both the government and the opposition are leaving open the possibility of postponing the inauguration, depending on how Chavez's health evolves.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US seeks to prevent spill from grounded oil rig

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US Coast Guard vowed yesterday to prevent fuel from leaking from a Shell oil rig that grounded in Alaska after breaking free from tugboats towing it in heavy seas.

The Kulluk mobile drilling unit was being towed to Seattle when it broke free on New Year's Eve and washed ashore near Kodiak Island, some 300 miles southwest of Anchorage.

The rig has some 150,000 gallons of ultra-low sulphur diesel and roughly 12,000 gallons of oil and hydraulic fluid, according to the far northwestern US state's KTUU television station.

There is no sign of leaks, but further checks were being made as authorities considered how to salvage the structure, the Coast Guard said after US senator Lisa Murkowski visited a Command Center set up for the incident Tuesday.

"Senator Murkowski shares

the Coast Guard's desire to protect the pristine Alaska environment and response personnel," said Rear Admiral Thomas Ostebo in an update posted online yesterday.

"Everyone involved in the response effort has the same objective: to safely recover the Kulluk without injuries or impact to the environment. So far, response personnel have demonstrated great resourcefulness and adaptability to the weather and other challenges in a very difficult operation."

Eighteen crew members had already been evacuated from the rig before it broke free late Monday, New Year's Eve. By Tuesday it was described as upright and rocking with a slow, but stable motion.

Oil company Royal Dutch Shell said three people suffered minor injuries during the response to the Kulluk's grounding, according to the television station.



CHICAGO - An angel, a cigarette, liquor and religious candles help to form a memorial created in an alley near the spot where 20-year-old Octavius Dontrell Lamb was shot yesterday and killed, on January 2, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois. At 3:45 a.m., less than four hours into the new year, Lamb became the first murder victim of 2013 in Chicago, a city which saw more than 500 murders in 2012. Fifteen people were shot in Chicago on the first day of the year, three fatally. Aurora, Illinois' second largest city, had no murders in 2012. (AFP)

Syria conflict kills 60,000, says UN, as clashes rage

DAMASCUS (AFP) - More than 60,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict, the UN said yesterday, as dozens more died or were wounded when an air strike hit a service station near Damascus.

As the casualties continued to mount, the family of a freelance US journalist, who contributed videos to AFP, revealed that he was kidnapped in Syria six weeks ago and has been missing ever since.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said in Geneva that 59,648 people had died through the end of November in the 21-month conflict, which began as a peaceful uprising in March 2011.

"Given there has been no let-up in the conflict since the end of November, we can assume that more than 60,000 people have been killed by the beginning of 2013," Pillay said in a statement.

"The number of casualties is much higher than we expected, and is truly shocking," she added.

Pillay said in December 2011 that the UN was unable to provide precise figures on the number of deaths. Since then, media have been relying on the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which put the total on Monday at more than 46,000.

"Although this is the most detailed and wide-ranging analysis of casualty figures so far, this is by no means a definitive figure," Pillay said.

Analysis has shown a steady increase in the average number of documented deaths per month since the beginning of the conflict, growing from around 1,000 in the summer of 2011 to an average of more than 5,000 since July 2012.

The Observatory said a regime air strike in the Eastern Ghouta region of Damascus

killed or wounded dozens of people, many of them horribly burned.

"There are 12 bodies that have been found at the scene, including a number of rebels from different local battalions," Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP by phone. "It is not yet clear if the gas station was the target."

The Local Coordination Committees, a grassroots network of activists, estimated that at least 50 people were killed and dozens of others wounded.

It said the toll was likely to rise because bodies were still being pulled from the rubble, adding that "it is extremely difficult to count the dead because most of the bodies have been immolated."

A gruesome video posted on YouTube purported to show the aftermath of the attack, with many of the bodies burned.

It was not immediately clear if the bomb blasts caused

the storage tanks to explode, but the scene was engulfed in fire, which suggests that was the case.

The family of US reporter James Foley, which had earlier asked media not to report his abduction in the hope that a low profile would assist in efforts to free him, broke their silence yesterday to reveal his plight.

"We want Jim to come safely home, or at least we need to speak with him to know he's okay," said his father, John Foley. Addressing the captors he said: "To the people who have Jim, please contact us so we can work together toward his release."

Foley, 39, an experienced reporter who has covered other conflicts, was seized by armed men in the town of Taftanaz province on November 22, along with a driver and a translator who were later released, according to witnesses.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction.



NEW YORK - AFP photo shows a woman walking by homes and businesses destroyed by Superstorm Sandy in the Rockaways on January 2, 2013 in the Queens borough of New York City. Criticism, including by President Barack Obama, has been directed at the Republican House's decision to adjourn without passing a Superstorm Sandy aid bill. According to early estimates, Superstorm Sandy inflicted at least \$50 to \$60 billion in damage across the Northeast, making it one of the most destructive storms ever.



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International News

Angola New Year stampede death toll rises to 16



LUANDA (AFP) - The official death toll from a stampede at a New Year's Eve evangelical vigil in Angola rose to 16 Wednesday, as witnesses said the tragedy was caused by a scramble for sachets of holy water.

Authorities probing how the disaster happened have discovered that the 80,000-seater stadium in the capital Luanda was packed to nearly double its capacity as turnout far exceeded expectations.

"The police, fire-fighters and health services and church leaders, all of us, were overwhelmed by the numbers of people who descended on Cidadela Stadium," said Gaspar de Almeida.

The initial death toll had stood at 10. Police did not give further details on the six latest deaths.

Worshipper Marcelina Bap-

tista said people were crushed when they tried to grab sachets of water believed to have supernatural powers.

"The chaos began with the arrival of the last batch of people from Luanda's outlying neighbourhoods, through the entrance... where sachets of blessed water were placed. Everyone wanted to reach for one," she said.

The vigil was organised by the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, which was founded in Brazil in 1977 and boasts of more than a million followers in Angola, according to the culture ministry.

Its overnight New Year's Eve prayer vigil in Luanda is an annual event.

The church has denied responsibility for the tragedy.

Of the over 100 wounded during the crush, 25 sustained serious injuries.



HONG KONG, China (AFP) : Shark fins drying in the sun cover the roof of a factory building in Hong Kong on January 2, 2013. Environmentalists and other concerned groups have raised concerns that the over-harvesting of fins is causing an environmental calamity. Hong Kong is one of the world's biggest markets for shark fins, which are used to make soup that is an expensive staple at Chinese banquets.

New Jersey town's schools get armed cops

NEW YORK (AFP) - Amid a national debate on how to stop gun massacres in public places, one town in New Jersey began posting armed police at every school on the restart of the academic year Wednesday.

The new policy was the town of Marlboro's response to anguished questions over security in the wake of December's massacre in which a gunman shot 20 young children and six staff dead at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut.

"The safety and security of our students, staff, and buildings are of utmost importance," the Marlboro education authority said on its website.

"To that end, and in response to the Newton, CT tragedy, starting Wednesday, January 2, every Marlboro school will have an armed, uniformed Marlboro Township police officer."

The measure will be in place for 90 days "while discussions about future security improvements are conducted," the



statement added.

Deploying police full time at schools has become common in the United States over the last two decades, according to a study sponsored by the Department of Justice.

"Nearly half of all public schools have assigned police officers," the 2010 study said, and "assigning officers to schools is becoming increasingly popular."

But the Newtown shootings on December 14 added urgency to an already heated de-

bate over how to protect schools and other public places.

Gun control advocates say US laws too easily allow criminals and deranged individuals access to powerful weapons. The main gun rights lobby, the National Rifle Association, says that the best way forward is to arm teachers -- a strategy that has found favor in some western states, including Utah.

Reactions to Marlboro's initiative were mixed on the schools' Facebook page.

US journalist, AFP contributor, kidnapped in Syria

PARIS (AFP) - A freelance American reporter who contributed videos to Agence France-Presse (AFP) in recent months was kidnapped in war-torn Syria six weeks ago and has been missing since, his family revealed Wednesday.

US journalist James Foley, 39, an experienced war reporter who has covered other conflicts, was seized by armed men in the northern province of Idlib on November 22, according to witnesses.

Foley, who last supplied AFP with video material the day before he disappeared, was picked up in the town of Taftanaz by four men who later released his driver and translator, the witnesses said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction, in a country which has been racked by bitter civil war since the start of an uprising by rebels opposing President Bashar al-Assad's regime

nearly two years ago.

Foley's family, which had earlier asked media groups not to report the abduction in the hope that a low profile would assist in efforts to free him, broke their silence Wednesday to reveal his plight.

Foley was previously kidnapped and held for six weeks by forces loyal to slain Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi while covering that civil war last year.

At the time, he was working for GlobalPost, which was in-

volved in his rescue and which is standing by his family in the latest incident.

The reason for his abduction in Syria remains unclear. It is not known if his abductors are financially motivated or if they are linked to any Islamist groups, rebels or pro-regime forces or sympathisers.

Large parts of northern Syria are controlled by anti-Assad rebel groups that form part of the Free Syrian Army or are made up of jihadis, including foreign fighters.

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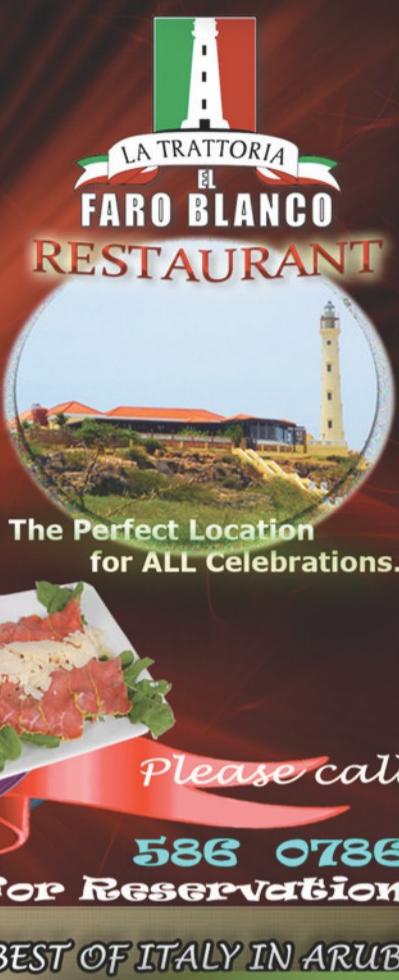
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Health & Living

Extra pounds may be healthy -- as long as its just a few

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Turns out a few extra pounds may not be such a bad thing, according to a new analysis of nearly three million adults that showed people who are overweight or slightly obese may live longer.

But experts were quick to caution that the possible benefits dropped off when the "few" extra pounds turned into many.

The researchers used data from nearly 100 studies from around the world, with health information from more than 2.8 million adults.

Among the sampled population, there were around 270,000 deaths within the study period.

Even after controlling for other factors, such as age, sex, smoking, those whose weight and height put them in the "overweight" category were six percent less at risk of dying than those in the "normal" category.

And those who were "slightly obese," with heights and weights that gave them BMIs of 30 to 35, were five percent less at risk of dying in a given period.

But for those who were more significantly obese, with BMIs of 35 and higher, the mortality rate soared by 29

percent compared to "normal" weight subjects, according to the authors of the meta-analysis, published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

BMI, which stands for body-mass index, is calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by height in meters, squared.

The authors suggested several possible reasons to explain why some extra weight may be good, but too much is bad, including that those with a few extra pounds may be more likely to receive "optimal medical treatment."

They said it was also possible that increased body fat provided metabolic benefits that protect the heart, or that having extra reserves of fat could be helpful for those whose sicknesses make it hard to eat.

Lead researcher Katherine Flegal, of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, published a controversial study in 2005 that indicated there was a link between excess weight and living longer.

These studies and others show that small amounts of



excess fat "may provide needed energy reserves" during illness, or help in other ways that need to be investigated, wrote biomedical researchers Steven Heymsfield and William Cefalu in an editorial also published Tuesday in the JAMA.

CDC director Thomas Friedan said in a statement that "we still have to learn about obesity, including how best to measure it."

However, he insisted that "it's clear that being obese is not healthy, it increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and many other health problems."

After Newtown, Colombia firm makes bullet-proof kid clothes



The backpacks and vests are meant to blend in and not look like body armor. They come in colors for boys and colors for girls.

BOGOTA (AFP) - Miguel Caballero has been making bullet-proof clothes for politicians and other bigwigs for 20 years, but not for kids. The latest US school massacre has changed that.

This year he plans a line for children -- T-shirts, vests, and combination backpack-vests -- and geared toward the US market.

Caballero has made good money in his 22-year-old business with a factory on the outskirts of Bogota. He sells around 50,000 garments a year, but the US market had been tough to crack.

Then, after a lone and deranged gunman killed 20 small children and six staffers at Sandy Hook Elementary School last month in Newtown, Connecticut, he started getting orders from very worried parents.

"We would answer that we do not make clothes for kids. But the emails kept coming," Caballero said.

So, in just a week, he designed garments and subjected them to ballistic tests. Now his factory is fitted to churn out a first lot of 1,800 bullet-proof garments for children and is waiting for firm orders.

Carolina Ballesteros, Caballero's director of research and development, said the impact of the Newtown shooting was huge because of the age of most of the victims: just six and seven.

The new line is tailored for kids aged 8 to 16, with prices ranging from \$200 to \$400, depending on the garment and its size.

The company makes uniforms for security forces and suits for public figures in many countries.

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Sci-Tech Poland bans cultivation of GM maize, potatoes

WARSAW (AFP) - Poland on Wednesday imposed new bans on the cultivation of certain genetically modified strains of maize and potatoes, a day after an EU required green light for GM crops took effect.

The centre-right govern-

ment of Prime Minister Donald Tusk imposed farming bans on German BASF's Amflora strain of potato and US firm Monsanto's MON 810 maize or corn, according to a government statement.

Global environmental

watchdog Greenpeace hailed the move, which will take effect on January 28.

According to Tusk, under EU rules lawmakers had been forced to pass the blanket approval for GM crops which came into effect on January 1.

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The giant star - Zeta Ophiuchi



SPACE, (AFP) : This Spitzer Space Telescope infrared image obtained December 24, 2012 shows the giant star Zeta Ophiuchi. Zeta Ophiuchi is a young, large and hot star located around 370 light-years away. It dwarfs our own sun in many ways -- it is about six times hotter, eight times wider, 20 times more massive, and about 80,000 times as bright. Even at its great distance, it would be one of the brightest stars in the sky were it not largely obscured by foreground dust clouds. This massive star is travelling at a snappy pace of about 54,000 mph (24 kilometers per second), fast enough to break the sound barrier in the surrounding interstellar material. Because of this motion, it creates a spectacular bow shock ahead of its direction of travel (to the left). The structure is analogous to the ripples that precede the bow of a ship as it moves through the water, or the sonic boom of an airplane hitting supersonic speeds. The fine filaments of dust surrounding the star glow primarily at shorter infrared wavelengths, rendered here in green. The area of the shock pops out dramatically at longer infrared wavelengths, creating the red highlights.

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Avis locks up Zipcar for \$500 million



NEW YORK (AFP) - US car rental giant Avis announced plans yesterday to buy the popular auto-sharing service Zipcar in a deal valued at \$500 million.

The move gives Avis an entry into the growing market for car-sharing with the company which offers rentals on an hourly basis by giving customers a smart card to unlock vehicles on a self-serve basis.

Avis Budget Group agreed to pay \$12.25 per share in cash, a 49 percent premium over the Zipcar closing price on Monday. The transaction is subject to approval by Zipcar shareholders and other conditions, and is expected to be completed in the next few months.

The companies said car-sharing has grown to be a \$400 million business in the United States and is expanding rapidly around the world.

Zipcar has more than 760,000 members, known as Zipsters, and is the sector leader in 20 metropolitan areas in the United States, Canada and Europe. It also has cars at over 300 college and university campuses.



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Finance US Congress agrees...

Continued from page 1

The truce in Washington is likely to be brief, given the fight that will ensue over the spending cuts that now loom at the end of February as well as over regular budget bill extensions.

Those fights will be paralleled by one over a request by Obama for Congress to lift the country's \$16 trillion borrowing limit. Republicans are already demanding concessions on expenditures in return for allowing it to rise.

Obama issued a blunt warning on Tuesday that he would not play ball with Republicans by enjoining in another batter over the debt ceiling.

"If Congress refuses to give the United States government the ability to pay these bills on time, the consequences for the entire global economy would

IMF: US 'cliff' actions not enough

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund said yesterday that US actions to avoid the fiscal cliff did not go far enough to address the country's long-term fiscal deficit and debt problems.

The global emergency lender cheered the political deal finalized late Tuesday in Washington that allowed the country to avoid severe spending cuts and tax hikes programmed to take place.

"In the absence of Congressional action the economic recovery would have been derailed," IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said in a statement.

But, he added, the Congress made little progress on dealing with the larger-picture problem of the US deficit, and the need to increase the country's statutory debt ceiling in order to keep funding that deficit.

"More remains to be done to put US public finances back on a sustainable path without harming the still fragile recovery," Rice said in a statement.

be catastrophic, far worse than the impact of a fiscal cliff," he warned.

House Speaker John Boehner warned that the focus would now turn to Republican turf of tightening the budget.

"Now the focus turns to spending. The American people re-elected a Republican majority in the House, and we will use it in 2013 to hold the president accountable for the 'balanced' approach he promised," Boehner said.

The Republican leader promised "significant spending cuts and reforms to the entitlement social welfare programs that are driving our country deeper and deeper into debt."

The legislation raises taxes on individuals earning more than \$400,000 per year, and on couples earning more than \$450,000, while retaining tax cuts for Americans with lower incomes put in place under the administration of former president George W. Bush.

The deal also included an end to a temporary two-percent cut to payroll taxes for Social Security retirement savings -- meaning all Americans will pay a little more -- and changes to inheritance and investment taxes.



NINGBO -- This photo taken on December 31, 2012 shows the soon-to-be-completed highest building in Ningbo, in eastern China's Zhejiang province, the Global Shipping Square (L), nearly completed and measuring roughly 256 metres high, as more skyscrapers dot the skylines of Chinese cities. China's manufacturing activity surged to a 19-month high in December, British bank HSBC said on December 31, adding to signs of recovery in the world's second-largest economy (AFP PHOTO)

Analysis -- US cliff deal to slow growth: economists

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The political deal to pull the US away from the "fiscal cliff" will still hit economic growth and efforts to generate jobs, economists said yesterday, but the country will avoid a feared recession.

Although not as severe as they could have been, Congress and the White House agreed tax increases on the country's wealthiest two percent and higher paycheck deductions for all workers that will suck enough money out of the economy to significantly hold back growth in 2013, they said.

Moreover, politicians still face a battle over cutting federal spending -- put off for two months in the wrangling over the cliff deal finally passed Tuesday -- that could further crunch the economy this year.

That means more tepid expansion of gross domestic product this year, with equally slow job creation as in 2012, by most estimates.

"We are looking at growth of 1.7 percent, somewhere around there," after around 2.0 percent GDP growth in 2012, said Gregory Daco of IHS Global Insight.

But that is better than what could have been if Democrats and Republicans had failed to agree on legislation to avoid the much larger programmed tax hikes of the cliff, he said.

"If nothing had happened... we would have been in a recession."

The biggest impact will be an increase in how much employees see deducted from their paychecks for social security: after having been cut to stimulate growth in recent years, the rate goes back to 6.2 percent from 4.2 percent.

Daco estimated that will pull \$113 billion out of the economy -- money that mostly would have otherwise been spent on goods and services.

"That is the measure that is going to hit the most people," he told AFP -- by itself cutting 0.4 percent from potential growth.

An increase in tax rates for Americans earning over \$400,000, to 39.6 percent from 35 percent, will not have as large an impact, he said: "A dollar for them is not the same as a dollar for someone earning \$50,000."

Economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Analytics said the tax increases and spending cuts still to be agreed will take about one percentage point from what could have been, had the 2012 tax rates and spending plans stayed in place.

"The result is that the US economy will grow just over 2 percent in 2013, about the same as in 2012," Zandi said.

In addition, he added, it will hold back job creation, "with 700,000 fewer net new jobs created and an unemployment rate about half a percentage point higher than it would have been if last year's policy had simply been extended."

Gregory Michael of BMO Capital Markets said the impact would be larger -- cutting 1.4 percent from potential GDP growth.

"Nearly half of this restraint reflects the increase in payroll taxes, one third represents the delayed automatic spending cuts and the remainder reflects all other measures including higher tax rates for those making more than \$400,000."

Economists said that despite the deal on tax hikes, the looming political fight over short- and long-term spending reduction will continue to worry businesses, which could continue to hold off on investment and hiring as they did in 2012.

"There's still a lot of uncertainty in the economy," said Daco. "Businesses are not yet in the full-confidence mode."

Cas Animal Cont'd

A great end of the year for Foundation Cas Animal



Little Toni (L) has a loving friend

The highest priorities of the Cas Animal Foundation, which rescues sick, injured, abandoned and abused dogs and cats off Aruba's streets, is building a proper no-kill shelter and seeing those dogs they have saved placed in loving homes.

The end of 2012 saw a number of encouraging successes, with several animals placed in homes on Aruba, the U.S. and Europe. Their stories have been recounted in THE MORNING NEWS, and we have received wonderful feedback and follow up from the individuals who departed Aruba with a new family member in tow.

One of these heartwarming stories was that of honeymooners from Cologne, Germany, Toni Jatkowski and Heike Schalli. They stayed two weeks at the Bucuti Beach Resort and Tara Suites, who became the "silent partners" in their decision to adopt a young puppy they found at the Alto Vista Chapel. The eventual rescue of this puppy involved quite a few members of the local community, thanks to the determined efforts of Toni, who could not rest until he saw something done to help the weak, dehydrated puppy they found at the popular sight.

Eventually, the owners of Bucuti took on the expenses of seeing "Baby Toni," treated, vaccinated and paid for the transport cage on their return flight to Holland with KLM.

Unfortunately, Baby Toni was placed into 3-week quarantine on their return to Holland, even though rabies does not exist on Aruba, due to an error in paperwork. Though upset the young puppy would be isolated for the time, this did not in anyway defuse the determination of Toni and Heike to give it a good home.

On Christmas Eve they were finally able to introduce the now renamed "Mali" to his new companion, another mixed breed they rescued. From first sniff, the two are getting along famously. They report that their older dog has become a playful puppy again with his lively new friend in the house, and Mali's future looks bright.

This is one of a number of success stories that have provided an upbeat end of the year for this endless task, which can sometimes be so heartbreaking. Cas Animal hopes to see this trend continue through 2013. Cas Animal founder Kirsten Arndt now cares for nearly 70 dogs in her home, which she has converted into a

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temporary shelter. Her costs for feeding, treating and neutering all the dogs she rescues and maintains are astronomical. She is close to breaking ground on a spacious shelter in Kibaima. If anyone wishes to help, they can support her with donations in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics or to Animal Care Clinic in Paradera, phone number 582-8382. Donations can be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, or see one in distress, call Kiki at 742-8732 and she will help you as she helped Toni and Heike and many others in arranging care and transport of a dog in need of a good home.

by Rosalie Klein

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yet,
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peaceful,
And what you want,
you get.
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cherish
The past year's
memories,
And live your life
each new day,
Full of bright
expectancies.
I wish for you a
holiday
With happiness
galore;
And when it's done,
I wish you
Happy New Year,
and many more.**

By Joanna Fuchs



Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese."

This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta).

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Wallessever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an interna-

tionally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100%

pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man

Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese,



lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to

be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

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SPORTS

Football: Ronaldo promises better year for Real

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid's star striker Cristiano Ronaldo vowed Wednesday that the faltering Spanish title holders would fight back in 2013 and played down reported tensions in the club.

Following captain Iker Casillas's message of calm after the team dropped 16 points behind rivals Barcelona in the league, on Wednesday it was the Portuguese goalscorer's turn to keep up appearances.

"It is difficult when a top team like Real Madrid that is used to winning finds itself not at its best level. It is normal that people get a bit more tense," Ronaldo told a news conference.

"We have to admit that we are having a bad moment but I am sure this will be a good year. We are training well and so good things are sure to come."

Weeks of rumours about splits in the club peaked on December 23 when coach Jose Mourinho dropped Casillas from the starting line-up away to Malaga -- a game Real lost 3-2.

Mourinho insists that decision was taken on technical grounds alone and Ronaldo backed the Portuguese coach on Wednesday.

"The coach is the one who decides. We all have to respect his decisions," he said.

Casillas was hoping to regain his place for Sunday's match against Real Sociedad.

Ronaldo declined to comment on his own long-term plans with Real Madrid, which has not yet indicated whether it will renew his current contract beyond 2015.

"That is not the most important thing right now," said Ronaldo, who is the third-highest scorer in the league this season with 14 goals.

NFL: Eagles' Reid casualty in coach firing frenzy

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Andy Reid, Philadelphia's coach of 14 years, was among the casualties as a welter of under-achieving NFL teams axed coaches on "Black Monday" following the end of the regular season.

Reid is the winningest coach in Eagles club history. Since he arrived in 1999 the team has posted a regular-season record of 130-93-1, reached the playoffs nine times, played in five NFC championship games and lost in the Super Bowl after the 2004 season.

But reports were surfacing Sunday night that Reid was on the way out -- just hours after the Eagles closed their season with a 42-7 loss to the New York Giants that put their record at 4-12.

Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said the Eagles will immediately begin their search for Reid's successor and that he has "a very, very defined list of

candidates". There will be no shortage of coaches looking for work.

Chicago parted ways Monday with coach Lovie Smith -- the day after the Bears beat Detroit to complete a 10-6 season that wasn't good enough to get them in the playoffs.

The perennially under-achieving San Diego Chargers sacked head coach Norv Turner and general manager A.J. Smith.

The Kansas City Chiefs, who endured tragedy off the field as well as disappointment on it with their second 2-14 season in five years, sacked head coach Romeo Crennel.

Buffalo sacked head coach Chan Gailey after a third straight losing season. Cleveland axed both head coach Pat Shurmur and general manager Tom Heckert after the Browns lost their last three games of the season to finish last in the AFC North division for the fourth time in five years.

Yachting: Swiss skipper disqualified from Vendee Globe

PARIS (AFP) - Swiss skipper Bernard Stamm has been disqualified from the solo, non-stop, round-the-world yacht race the Vendee Globe for receiving assistance, the international jury overseeing the competition said on Wednesday.

The jury, which is independent of the race organisers, said in a statement that Stamm had been helped when he made a pitstop in the Auckland Islands of New Zealand on December 23 to repair a broken generator.

Specifically, he breached race rules by mooring his Cheminees Poujoulat boat to a Russian scientific vessel with help from a crew member, although Stamm maintained that mooring was unavoidable because his craft was drifting and it was an emergency.

On the point of receiving assistance from a crew member of the Russian ship, he said they had come on board without him asking -- and without knowing that he was participating in a solo race -- to help him moor safely.

Stamm has until today to request a review of the decision. If none is forthcoming, the disqualification will come into effect, it added.

The sailor and his Cheminees Poujoulat boat were in 10th position in the race at 0800 GMT on Wednesday. French skipper Francois Gabart was in the lead, some 15.5 nautical miles (18 miles, 29 kilometres) ahead of compatriot Armel Le Cleac'h.

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NBA: Nuggets end Clippers' 17-game win streak

DENVER (AFP) - The high-flying Los Angeles Clippers failed to stretch their 17-game NBA winning streak into the New Year, slipping to defeat against the Denver Nuggets.

The Nuggets stopped the Clippers' impressive run with a 92-78 victory, handing Los Angeles their first defeat since they fell at home to New Orleans on November 26.

Danilo Gallinari scored 17 points and added six rebounds. Kenneth Faried scored 14 points with 11 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have won three of their past four games.

The Clippers came into the contest riding a club-record winning streak, their 107-96 victory over the Utah Jazz on

Sunday making them just the third team in league history to go 16-0 in a single calendar month.

The streak was the longest in the NBA since the Boston Celtics won 19 straight from November 15-December 23 in 2008.

On Tuesday, however, the Clippers never led after the first quarter and coach Vinny Del Negro said his team was simply outplayed by the Nuggets.

Blake Griffin and Eric Bledsoe led the Clippers with 12 points apiece.

A close first quarter ended with the Nuggets leading 21-19. The hosts reeled off seven straight points to open the second and held a comfortable lead for much of the period, although Clippers reserve guard Jamal Crawford scored the last four points of the half to trim

the deficit to 48-43.

The Nuggets closed the third quarter with a 10-1 scoring run. They took a 75-59 lead into the fourth, and the Clippers didn't get closer than 13 points in the final quarter.

"Give Denver credit -- I thought they outworked us," Del Negro said. "They were a step faster than us tonight."

"In games past, when we struggled to score we relied on our defence and tonight we didn't execute very well at either end."

"They played better than we did at both ends."

The Clippers won't have much time to regroup, as they face the Golden State Warriors in Oakland on Wednesday.

They have a day off before a marquee match-up with their cross-town rivals the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday.

88th Sao Silvestre international race



SAO PAULO - The Kenyan born Kipsang Rotich won the 88th edition of the Corrida Internacional de São Silvestre, one of the oldest road races in the world on New years eve.

Kipsang Rotich clocked a blazing 44 minutes and five seconds for the 15K race.

The 24-year-old Kenyan is no stranger to the South American road-racing circuit as he spent most of 2012 competing there.

Last September, he won a 10K race in Curitiba and then prevailed again at that distance in November in Rio de Janeiro.

Meanwhile, in the women's race, the early pace was set by the Brazilian pair of Marily dos Santos and Larissa Quintão but

a group of African runners soon grabbed control of the race before Maurine Kipchumba went away on her own and came in first in 51:42.

Jackline Juma Sakilu of Tanzania was second, while Rumokol Chepkanan of Kenya was third.

Kipchumba, also 24, was returning to Brazil after victory in the 18.6km Volta de Pamplha in Belo Horizonte in early December.

It was her first victory at Sao Silvestre but the fourth consecutive for Kenyan athletes.

More than 25000 runners took place in the event, held this year at an earlier time, with friendly conditions of 23°C and 76% humidity.

Knicks fall short in Stoudemire season debut



NEW YORK (AFP) : J.R. Smith #8 of the New York Knicks is fouled by Luke Babbitt #8 of the Portland Trail Blazers on January 1, 2013 at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The Portland Trail Blazers defeated the New York Knicks 105-100.

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Tennis: Djokovic suffers shock loss

PERTH (AFP) - Serbia beat Australia at the Hopman Cup despite world number one Novak Djokovic suffering a shock defeat at the hands of Bernard Tomic on Wednesday.

It was Djokovic's first defeat on Australian soil since 2010, with the Serbian aiming for his third straight Australian Open title in Melbourne later this month.

With the 20-year-old Tomic showing the undoubted talent he has only displayed in flashes so far in his short career, a rusty Djokovic was bro-

ken in the ninth game of each set, losing 6-4, 6-4.

Tomic applied great pressure to the Djokovic serve throughout, holding 13 break points during the match.

He also hit 25 winners, to just 12 from Djokovic.

It was the first time the Serbian had been beaten by Tomic, ranked 52nd in the world, in four official meetings.

Djokovic, 25, dismissed the setback, having arrived in Perth only a few days ago after winning in Abu Dhabi.

"I knew I was coming here to Australia very late and it takes me time to get used to it," he said.

Djokovic said he was fully aware of Tomic's talent, the Australian reaching a career-high ranking of 27 at June. Tomic was a quarter-finalist at Wimbledon in 2011 and made the fourth round at last year's Australian Open.

"He is right up there with the up-and-coming players, he is very talented," Djokovic said of Tomic.

Tomic said it was the best

win of his career and a result that he needed to build on.

"I am still improving and I have got a lot more to improve," he said.

"This is a good sign and I have to continue to play like this."

Ana Ivanovic then levelled the Group A tie with a 6-2, 6-3 win over teenager Ashleigh Barty.

Serbia clinched the tie and remained unbeaten with a 6-4, 6-7 (8/10), 10-6 win in a match tiebreak in the mixed doubles.

Earlier on Wednesday, for-

mer French Open champion Francesca Schiavone showed her fighting qualities as Italy beat Germany 2-1.

Needing to win her singles match to keep Italy alive in the tie and the mixed teams tournament, the world number 35 was a set and a break down while battling stomach pain against little-known German Taja Malek, but rallied determinedly to win in three sets.

Haas had given the Germans the lead in the tie with a hard-fought straight sets win over Seppi, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (9/7).

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